## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 081211 ORIGIN L-03

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DRAFTED BY L/ARA:T.FORTUNE:JV APPROVED BY L/ARA:M.KOZAK

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O 300005Z MAR 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 081211

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PN

SUBJECT: DRAFT IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION; SPECIAL IMMI-GRATION PROVISION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PROPOSED LETTER FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER TO ARMY SECRETARY ALEXANDER RE: APPLICATION OF EXISTING IMMIGRATION STATUTE (8 U.S.C. SUBSECTION 1101(A)(27)(D)):

BEGIN TEXT. "AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES CONTAINS A SECTION WHICH PERMITS CERTAIN PRESENT AND RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN THE CANAL ZONE TO ENTER THE U.S. AS 'SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS.' IN ADDITION TO THIS NEW PROVISION, EXISTING LAW (8 U.S.C. SUBSECTION 1101(A)(27)(D)) PERMITS EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ABROAD WHO ARE RETIRED OR HAVE PERFORMED 15 YEARS OR MORE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 081211

FAITHFUL SERVICE TO ENTER THE U.S. AS SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS IN 'EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES' UPON A RECOMMENDATION OF THE AMBASSADOR AND APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY.

I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT, IN DETERMINING WHETHER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES' EXIST UNDER SECTION 1101(A)(27) (D) WHICH WARRANT A RECOMMENDATION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT

STATUS BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, AND THE APPROVAL OF SUCH A RECOMMENDATION BY THE SECRETARY, WITH RESPECT TO APPLICATIONS BY FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN THE CANAL ZONE, THE DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE CONSIDERATION, AS ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF JUDGMENT, TO THE FACT THAT AN APPLICANT HAS BEEN INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY OF 1977 AND (A) HAS NOT BEEN OFFERED EMPLOYMENT, UNDER TERMS AND CONDITIONS GENERALLY COMPARABLE TO THOSE UNDER WHICH HE WAS EMPLOYED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, OR (B) HAS INITIALLY OBTAINED SUCH EMPLOYMENT BUT HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BECOME INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED DURING THE LIFE OF THE TREATY." COOPER

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